

Warrior Newsletter

Family Readiness Group News, Information and Events.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2009

Warrior Battalion Activates

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) brings a new battalion into the new year

By Spc. Erica Weidner-Vinyard
3d U.S. Infantry Regiment
"The Old Guard"
Public Affairs

The Old Guard celebrated the activation of 4th Battalion in Conmy Hall, Fort Myer on Dec. 18.

On June 3, 1784, the battalion began as a company of the First American Regiment. After several reactivations and redesignations throughout the centuries, 4th battalion was redesignated to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment on Oct. 1, 2005.

Today's 4th battalion consists of Headquarters Company, Company A, Honor Guard Company, 529th Support Company, 289th Military Police Company, and the Fife and Drum Corps.

"The 4th battalion has a unique mission set of capabilities," said Lt. Col. Jaime Martinez, 4th Battalion commander. "We provide world class ceremonial

support, prepared to respond to support civil authorities and can tactically deploy formations in support of Global War on Terrorism."

The new battalion joins the rest of the Old Guard in showcasing the Army to our nations' citizens and the world and to render honors of our fallen comrades in Arlington National Cemetery.

As the Army's newest Modified Table of Organization & Equipment battalion, 4th battalion meets the needs that are significantly different from the Basic TOE, an organizational design document based on a unit's current doctrine and available equipment for structure and wartime requirements. An MTOE is a document that modifies a BTOE in regard to a specific unit.

"As an MTOE battalion, we're a designator for deployable assets," said Martinez, "which means the Army is constantly rotating units to deploy and we have more than enough people to meet those requirements."

Lt. Col. Martinez calls his Soldiers 'Warriors' which inspired him to designate the battalion's motto, 'VINDICIAE CONTRA TYRANNOS' meaning "a defense of liberty against the tyrants."

"The 4th Battalion has a unique history serving the Army," said

Martinez. "Given our mission, this motto captures not only legacy but the challenging tasks we may face in the upcoming future."

The Warrior Battalion started off the new year supporting the 56th Presidential Inauguration along with preparing Soldiers and leaders for ceremonial and tactical proficiency.



LTC Martinez receives the guidon from COL Buche The Old Guard Regimental Commander



WARRIOR 6 SENDS:

Warriors, Families, and Friends:

Welcome to the inaugural publication of the Warrior Newsletter, where we hope to bring you a quarterly update and information that will be useful to you!

Since the Activation Ceremony in December the Warrior Battalion has not missed a step – the Inauguration, multiple weeks in the cemetery, numerous high profile ceremonies, EIB training and testing to name a few. In each and every instance, your Soldiers, our Warriors performed their duties in an exceptional manner. CSM Jackson and I are humbled to be leading this team of true professionals. Given the unique nature of our mission and the daily responsibilities that each we share – our tenure here is that much more special.

Family Readiness Group (FRG)

I will lead the Warrior FRG. Indeed, the Warrior family has taken strides in standing up viable and responsive FRGs at the company level – we are still establishing our battalion level systems. In the interim, I will begin chairing battalion level FRG Advisor Council meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, with the intent to establish battalion level FRG priorities and activities based on feedback and responses from company FRG representatives. This group will determine the level of participation and frequency of activities at the battalion level.

Communications

Numerous communication mediums exist that we can multi-task with and keep one another up to date on what

this organization is doing on a daily basis. However, effective communications requires trust in the system that enables predictability for prudent planning for families and Soldiers. A last minute change or a known requirement that is not clearly communicated is what the command intends to avoid and has become a priority task for the leadership. I would ask that you rely on the company chain of command for scheduling and time requirements for your Soldiers workday. However, in an effort to streamline communications and take advantage of the real-time nature of the free-flow of ideas, 4-3 Infantry will supplement the current means to communicate daily activities by leveraging new communication mediums. Come join the command team at: 1)

www.twitter.com and link to my call-sign at **TOG43W6** for daily updates; or 2) log onto the new battalion webpage at:

<http://www.army.mil/oldguard/core/43bat/index.htm> from this website we will have a link to our “unofficial” website which we will post the commander’s BLOG, calendar updates, and useful links; 3) We also requested through the chain of command that 4-3 Infantry have government computer access to Facebook and MySpace for use as a viable social network tool – as soon as our request is granted we will activate those pages as well; and 4) I have asked each company to publish a monthly newsletter, as an analog means of communicating their company specific information to families and Soldiers.

Upcoming Key Events

- Monthly Warrior Family Readiness Group Advisory Council Meetings; 3rd Wednesday of the Month
- Block Leave Window – April 5-14

- Twilight Tattoo Preparation
- Twilight Tattoo Ceremonies (Begin May 6th)
- Regimental Ball – 8 May
- Memorial Day Weekend (22-24 May)
- Memorial Day Observance and Twilight Tattoo (25 May)

Thank you and have a great day!

Warrior 6

4/3 INF BN

Warrior 6



CSM'S WELCOME

Soldiers and Family:

Since the re-activation of 4-3 Infantry Battalion we all have been hard at work building a strong foundation which reflects the commitment and dedication of every soldier. This is our first mission, first and foremost. We are now in a position to shift some of our focus into activating our Family Readiness Group (FRG). The FRG is designed to be a vehicle of communication and form a sense of community within our BN. Our objective is to ensure that soldiers, spouses, and family alike become a cohesive unit.

My wife Candace and I look forward to meeting and speaking with each one of you. Please bring your great ideas so together we can meet our objective.

Warrior 7

4/3 INF BN

Army Family Team Building (AFTB)

The Fort Myer Military Community Army Family Team Building Program partners with Fort Belvoir's Army Family Team Building Program and provides 34 classes presented in three Levels; these classes educate and empower military families to be self-reliant and comfortable with their military environment. All classes are free and taught by professionally trained or online instructors. All AFTB Levels are taught in the AFTB Classroom, Bldg. 200, 9800 Belvoir Road (next to Dunkin Donuts) and childcare is available with pre-registration.

Level I focuses on learning the Army life covering such topics as Entitlement and Benefits, Financial Readiness, Family Readiness Groups, Impact of the Mission and more.

Level II teaches life skills that help individuals to grow to include Management Skills (Communication, Conflict, Understanding Needs, Time, Stress, Meeting, etc) as well as beginning Leadership classes.

Level III works with Leadership skills with classes such as Listening Skills, Building a Cohesive Team, Motivating Factors, Group Conflict Management, How to Develop a Presentation and many more.

Unit training is provided upon request. Promotion points can be earned by Soldiers who complete each Level and receive the official certificate. Courses can be taken on line as well at myarmylifetoo.com.

AFTB classes are useful not only in the military community we live in, but to provide education which translates into job skills and resume building.

AFTB is located in Bldg. 200, 9800 Belvoir Road. Program Manager: Colandra Sealey 703-805-5556



Alpha Company

Commander in Chief's Guard

This month A CO 4/3 Infantry has continued to work to execute each and every mission to the highest of ceremonial standard. Our primary focus in January was the recent presidential inauguration and the Mount Vernon firing demonstration in February. Our focus in March was EIB training and testing and preparing for Twilight Tattoo. In April, Alpha Company has a block leave window for Soldiers to take an opportune break and spend time with families or take a spring break trip. Our company FRG, headed by my wife, Erin Escobar, is able to assist families in preparation for this time off; I look forward to meeting all our families.



Commander
CPT Escobar



First Sergeant
1SG Edney

1st PLT, A CO 4/3 IN



Platoon Leader: 1LT Paul Brown



Platoon Sergeant: SFC Smith



JRTC

Recently as Alpha Co. participated in training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA, 1st Platoon was tasked to impersonate several squad sized Iraqi Police elements. Each squad was assigned to a different city and was set up to support and defend the citizens of their respective cities.

2nd PLT, A CO 4/3 IN



Above: PV2 Savage works out the PL. Soldiers teach their PL that "8 minute abs" goes on for well over 8 minutes.



The 2nd PLT "Ligers" are a tight knit group with a new addition. We welcome the newest Liger, Keegan Foy (9 pounds 2 oz) born 2 FEB to SPC Foy and his wife Melissa.



Working hard on and off the parade ground, 2nd PLT has begun focusing on the challenges of EIB. Road marching has become the norm. It is a little like performing a CINC parade... except you keep going.

3rd PLT, A CO 4/3 IN



PL Intro....born and raised on the south-side of Chicago 25 years ago. Have been in the Army for 2 ½ years and 15 months were deployed as part of the Surge in 2007. I am not married nor do I have a girlfriend, no dog, and no children. I enjoy playing soccer, golf, swimming, football, as well as watching them. My favorite sports team is the Chicago Cubs. I enjoy going to the casinos and playing Blackjack. My favorite movies are 21, The Godfathers, and Grease. Family is the most important part of my life as well as God.



PSG Intro... Jonathan Sydnor. Born in Va; hometown Warsaw, Va. Been in the Army for 17 years while being stationed in CA, WA, HI, NY, TN, GA, DC and many other places. Married to a beautiful wife with two loving daughters. Live in Frederickburg, Va.



Echo Company

GRENADIER NEWS



Commander
CPT Steven S. Wallace

Friends, family, and Grenadiers of Honor Guard Company, this has been a very challenging period for the company. In January, we executed the 56th Presidential Inauguration, one of the most publicly visible ceremonies in our nation's history. We've also recently marched in the March DA and the GO retirement of LTG Maples, AFFHA for the VCHOD of Finland, the Old Town Alexandria St Patty's day parade, the DC St Patty's day parade, and the Wreath Ceremony for the Medal of Honor recipients hosted by President Obama. Upcoming missions include Easter Sunrise Services and Twilight Tattoo.



First Sergeant
1SG EDWARD L. MILLS



Ceremonial

The members of Second Platoon participated in the Opening Ceremony for the Inauguration, an event which occurred in front of the Lincoln Memorial and was televised across the nation on HBO. Our Soldiers shared the stage with celebrities such as Beyonce, Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, U2, and Bon Jovi to name a few. In addition, President Barack Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Both ceremonies were completed with the utmost dignity and precession.



Honor Guard conducted a host of missions in support of the inauguration to include; Presidential Escort in the Inaugural Parade, Five Joint Armed Forces Cordons at the Capitol and White House, and a departure ceremony for the outgoing President at Andrews Air Force Base. In addition, the Continental Color Guard provided support for both the inauguration and the multitude of inaugural balls which occurred that evening.



In addition to the inauguration, the company has maintained its high ceremonial OPTEMPO. We conducted a Full Honor Wreath Ceremony for a dignitary of the Czech Republic, a host of Joint Full Honor Cordons, and are currently preparing for a special NCO-led retirement ceremony and funeral rotation towards the end of February.

Tactical

As an infantry company, the Grenadiers strive to maintain tactical proficiency. In mid-March the Company will conduct Short Range Marksmanship and in the early part of April, the company will conduct a live-fire exercise certifying teams and squads to enter and clear rooms. In preparation for this event, the Grenadiers recently completed urban operations training at the Lorton shoot-house facility.



The Grenadiers conducted Expert Infantryman's Badge training. The EIB demonstrates a Soldier's superior mental and physical toughness as well as his proficiency in standard infantry tasks. Prior to EIB testing, candidates must qualify expert on the M4/M16, complete a 12-mile road march in under 3 hours, score 75 points on each event in the Army Physical Fitness Test, and pass day and night land navigation testing. After these prerequisites have been met, candidates may begin the arduous nine day process of rehearsing and testing on individual infantry skills. Candidates were tested in areas such as: basic weapons system knowledge, first aid, communications, map reading, and requesting supporting fire with 26 Soldiers earning their EIBs! Congratulations to those Soldiers!



Congratulations, Hail and Farewell

NEW FATHERS

SFC GREGORY
PFC JOYCE
PFC BRANSON

RECENT PROMOTIONS

SGT BOGERT
SGT BONZAGNI
SGT LIBERTY
SSG GABLE
SPC REEVES
SPC MANCHA
SPC KUEHL
SPC KERSTEN
SPC EMERY

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to Honor Guard!

PVT KELLEY, THOMAS
PVT MYERS, CHRISTOPHER
SPC QUARLES, BRIAN
PV2 VINCENT, SHANE
PVT BONO, DANIEL
PVT MCLEAN, MALAKI

RECENT & UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

1-Feb
SSG STONE, NATHANAEL
2-Feb
SSG DICKMYER, ADAM,
SPC RATAJCZAKLEAMAN, RICHARD
7-Feb
PVT BRANSON, CURTIS
8-Feb
PV2 REBER, JACOB
17-Feb
PVT KELLEY, THOMAS J
SGT RIKER, MATTHEW
19-Feb
PFC HABERLAND, KIEL
20-Feb
SPC PARKER, CHRISTOPHER
PFC JOHNSON, WILLIAM
21-Feb
PFC ZARING, ALEX
PFC JOYCE, TREVOR
PVT MYERS, CHRISOPHER
22-Feb
SPC WILLIAMS, MATTHEW
SPC WILEY, CHANCE
25-Feb
PFC COPELAND, DONALD R.
SPC BOYLE, COLIN
27-Feb
PV2 SAWYER, DANIEL
28-Feb
MAJ HANIFEN, THOMAS J
3-Mar
SGT HEINEMEYER, ANDREW

4-Mar
PFC FIELDS, JONATHON
5-Mar
CPT JOHNSON, JOHN D.
6-Mar
PVT EWING, CHRISTOPHER
15-Mar
SGT HARRIS, JEREMY
17-Mar
SPC BOUCHER, JOSHUA
20-Mar
SPC ROBERTS, AARON
24-Mar
1SG MILLS, EDWARD LEE, JR
26-Mar
SGT BROWNE, DAVID
2-Apr
SGT BINEK, JEFFREY
5-Apr
PFC FRITCH, KENNETH
6-Apr
SPC WAGNER, MICHAEL R.

DEPARTING COMRADES

SGT RAY (ETS)
SGT MORA (PCS)
SPC NAFZIGER (ETS)

Former Members

Honor Guard Company would like to offer condolences to the family of MSG Daniels, the first recipient of the Tomb Guard Identification Badge. MSG Daniels passed away recently, but will be remembered for his dedication to the United States Army and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



529th RSC

Black Knights

To the Black Knight Soldiers and their Family and Friends,

Greetings during the end of this cold weather season! This newsletter comes to you during an ever-busy time for your loved ones in the 529th Regimental Support Company.

We recently participated in and supported the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America; the Medical Platoon provided support to Armed Forces service members at the Pentagon, at Fort Myer, and in Downtown Washington, D.C. The Soldiers in the Transportation Platoon supported the event by transporting Old Guard Soldiers and other Joint service members to all of the Inaugural Balls and also provided a movement control capability to the Regiment during this large scale logistical operation. The DFAC (Dining Facility)

platoon cooked around the clock for several days for service members and civilians who were supporting the event. Lastly, mechanics and headquarters Soldiers stood ready to provide contingency support in the event of an incident of some sort. At the end of a very long day, each Black Knight stood his/her post honorably in support of what was arguably the most historic event most of us will ever participate in; each of you should be proud of these Soldiers for the job they did.

Over the next couple of months, the company will continue its tireless support of the other 11 companies in this Regiment. Of particular note, some of the DFAC Soldiers are going to participate in the U.S. Army Annual Culinary Arts Competition; the Medical Platoon will conduct some medical training at Fort Belvoir which includes

Air MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation) training. Additionally, the entire company will continue to sharpen our individual Soldier skills during weekly training at Fort Myer and marksmanship training at nearby Fort A.P. Hill on almost a once-a-month basis. Generally, the training that we will do should impact your quality time with them minimally, with only a late night or two per month due to the training we are conducting.

In terms of the sometimes unpredictable schedule when we are supporting Regimental operations, the leaders in this company are working hard to try to implement some worthwhile changes so that you and your loved one have more predictability than is currently the case.

Cont...next page

Please feel free to view our recently revamped website at <http://www.army.mil/oldguard/43bat/529/index.htm>. It captures some of the recent great work that the Black Knights have done in support of our Regiment, as well as some of our recent training events. We routinely update it with current information and photos.

We remain humbled and feel privileged by the opportunity to serve alongside the fine Black Knight Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers. We know that their behind-the-scenes contributions truly enable this entire 1600-person Regiment to conduct its mission.

“LOOK TO US”

V/R,

CRAIG W. BUTERA
Company Commander

DONTRE D. TAYLOR
First Sergeant

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday wishes go to PFC Brian Allen, PV2 Devon Edwards, SGT Michael Gainous, SPC Paul Garno, PFC Alberto Oviedo, SGT Wayndisha Parker, SPC Jennifer Dominguez, SSG Carlton Smith, SFC Larry Davis, SPC Steven Chiever, SGT Donell Hughes, PFC Sean Sill, CPT Todd Kielman, SPC Jeffrey Vaughan, SSG Carvet Davis, SSG Nicholas Daniels, PFC Ryan Moore, and SGT Dane Shaw.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their recent promotion:
SPC Patrick Gaume, SPC Dean Marrison, SPC Steven Chiever, SPC

Robert Humphrey, SPC Lucas Rocha, SPC Thomas Hendrix, SPC Ryan Moore, SPC Jayson Mocarsky, PFC Nikolus Barrett, PFC Jason Howerton, PFC Jonathan Hyland, PFC Nicholas Lubin, PFC Brandon Everett, and PFC Christopher Barnett.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to PV2 and Mr. Jagtiani on the recent birth of their baby girl, Catherine Rebecca. Welcome to the world!



289th MP Company Spartan Warriors

Company Commander

Everyday is an honor privilege to serve our Spartan Warriors and their Families. The 289th Military Police Company is not for the weak. Spartan Warriors are disciplined, well trained, courteous and demand the best from ourselves. I am extremely proud of our Soldiers and all that they accomplish every hour, 24/7. Whether it's providing Law Enforcement for FMMC, conducting a Convoy Live Fire at Fort AP Hill or guarding the President at Arlington National Cemetery- their contributions make a difference everyday.

Congratulations to MSG Eastwood, MSG Ford, SPC Spain, SPC Vasquez, SPC Elliot and SPC Penny on their recent

promotions. I would also like to congratulate SPC Spain, SPC Olejniczak, SPC Gonzales and PFC Jones are their marriages!

First Sergeant

I would like to take this time to thank the 289th Spartan Families for the support in which they provided during the

56th Presidential Inauguration. I know your Husbands, Wives, Moms and Dads were here for a few days but you too took part in this historical event- thank you.

Headquarters Platoon

SSG Dickerson moved over to take over Platoon Sergeant of 1st Platoon and SGT Burton is now the HQ Platoon Sergeant.

SFC Eastwood and SFC Ford were promoted to MSG on 01 Feb 09. HQ PLT would like to say farewell to SSG Edwards (Supply) and SGT Ballesteros (PAC) and welcome SGT App (Supply).

Additionally, Headquarters Platoon supported the Company mission during the 56th Presidential Inauguration conducting such missions as members and NCOICs of Movement Control Teams, RTO for Company TOC, LNOs at Battalion TOC, and Arms Room operation.

1st PLT, 289th MP CO 4/3 IN

Promotions:

Congratulations is in order for two 1st Platoon Bushmasters promoted to SPC on waivers this month. SPC Elliott and SPC Penny are both very deserving and hard working Soldiers.



In the area of training the Bushmasters prepared for weapons familiarization, qualifications and Convoy Live Fire training in order to equip NCOs and Soldiers with the training needed to conduct combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operations Enduring Freedom.



2nd PLT, 289th MP CO 4/3 IN

Promotions:



Congratulations to SPC Spain for her recent promotion. Goes to show you do the right thing and set yourself apart from your peers, good things happen.



Recent events:

Combatives Tournament On the 24th of Feb Fight of the night where PFC Collinsaka "The Crippler" took on SSG Haidara aka "Da Hammer" (ONE FOR THE BOOKS)

Outstanding Performance:

PFC Bermel was commended from the PMO on her professionalism while working the road on the 29th of Jan.-Everyone from 2nd for the 56TH Presidential Inauguration

ANIMALS EAT'M UP!!!!

3rd PLT, 289th MP CO 4/3 IN

January was a fairly busy month for the preeminent Army SWAT team. We were fortunate enough to get a first look at President Obama and Vice President Biden during a private Wreath Laying Ceremony mere hours before they took office. The Inauguration also saw 100% of the platoon committed to a multitude of missions.



Our SRT members were strategically pre-positioned to counter potential disruptions of the ceremonies, and our other platoon members were providing security escorts to Ceremonial troops moving throughout the NCR. We will be continuing our preparations for SRT certifications and our assumption of patrol responsibilities during our Red Cycle. As always, DO WORK!

947th MP Det, 289th MP

CO 4/3 IN



Kennel Master

The 947th is the 3rd largest kennel in the Army, we are a high tempo K-9 unit. We conduct a wide range of missions from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, to providing detector dog support to the United States Secret Service for the President of the United States, down to public Military Working Dog demonstrations daily training is a must when it comes to dogs, so every dog handler must maintain at least 90% to 95% proficiency rating with there assigned dog. We have handlers featured in video news reports for the Pentagon, Fox, and CNN just to name a few. We have handlers deployed in various countries make news for outstanding explosive finds.



Recent birthdays in Feb 09

SPC Ingraham 2 Feb
SSG Burney 5 Feb
SGT Milroy 11 Feb
SGT Padgett 19 Feb
SGT Litaker 24 Feb

Recent Anniversary's

SSG Goulart 23 Feb
SGT Rempp 24 Feb

Finally, the 947th may most likely have the meanest cross eyed Military Working Dog in the military. This MWD is so mean he bites his own handler and other MP just to keep himself happy.



Headquarters & Headquarters Company 4/3

Commander's Message

Greetings Soldiers, Family and Friends of Hammer Company,

First thing's first... Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication during the 56th Presidential Inauguration, it did not go unnoticed. Our task at the swearing-in portion of the ceremony was accomplished to the customary level of excellence expected from our elite organization in spite of numerous challenges. The reason why we are successful? Simple, the senior NCOs in Hammer Company. I am fortunate with a First Sergeant who holds ALL of us to the highest of standards. The Section and Platoon Sergeants deserve just as much credit. I have the best NCOs in the battalion, always ensuring their Soldiers are trained, ready, and taken care of. Everyone says NCOs are the backbone of the Army; it's not evident in all units. It shows in this one though. The families should be very proud of their Soldiers. Their discipline, sense of humor, and quiet professionalism brings credit upon us all. I am

looking forward to our Soldiers sweeping the Soldier & NCO of the Quarter Boards, thanks to their hard work.

As the company increases readiness and transform, we are laying the groundwork to establish a Family Readiness Group. The organization's purpose is to support Soldiers, family members and unit during periods of normal life, but especially before, during, and after periods of separation, i.e. field problems, deployments, and in times of crisis. The organization strives to provide an avenue of mutual support and assistance as well as a network of communication among family members, the chain of command and community resources. The goal is to help families become more knowledgeable and self-sufficient and promote more efficient use of community resources. We urgently need your support and will soon be sending an e-mail or contacting you by phone to establish communications and extend invitations to our forming events.

Recent months have been hectic, but we honed our tactical proficiency during the

Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) Training and Testing (14-24 March, Fort A.P. Hill). The US Army Drill Team performed at the Daytona 500 race will compete at the Joint Service Drill Team Exhibition (26 April, GMU Field House) all while the company conducts Twilight Tattoo preparations. As the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier transitions to our company, their Soldiers can rest assured that we will meet their support needs, provide world class administrative support, as well as enhance their readiness and quality of life.

One Team, One Fight!
CPT Arnaldo I. Ramos Guzman - HAMMER 6

A word from the TOP HAMMER – 1SG Harris

I would like to begin by expressing how honored I am to be given the opportunity to lead in such prestigious organization. I am a firm believer that as leaders, we must know our Soldiers, our mission, and our jobs. “No One is More Professional than I” have a deeper meaning than the first sentence of the NCO Creed. It is the mantra of what NCOs do. In this year of the non-commissioned officer we will continue to show the world why we are empowered and trusted to operate autonomously. It is because we are confident and competent. Even in staff positions we do not stop being leaders, Hammer NCOs I want you to remember.

I AM AN NCO,

I WILL ALWAYS BE AN NCO

IT WILL BE DONE!

We recently bid farewell to CPL Hardin and welcomed PV2 Castillo (S-1) and SPC Jones (S-6). Congratulations are in order to newly promoted SSG Rangel and SFC Barthmaier.

As always if anybody has any questions or concerns, please contact me at anytime.

1SG Cedrick G. Harris – HAMMER 7





The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps

Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps passes reviewing stand as part of the 46th Presidential Inaugural parade.

From the Commander's desk...

Dear Battalion Soldiers and Families:

As the Commander of one of our country's National Treasures, it brings me no greater pleasure than to guide and lead The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. This year holds plenty for the Corps, and with our busy summer season fast approaching, we're wasting no time preparing.

Starting off our new year was the extremely successful Presidential Inauguration. The Fife and Drum Corps not only rendered full honors to our new Commander in Chief, but also reminded millions of watching eyes of our Nation's great early history.

Spirit of America is one of the Military District of Washington's annual highlights. In ensuring a performance befitting the Old Guard, the Fife and Drum Corps is already preparing for this year's show. Focusing on early music training and drill practice, these soldier-musicians will be putting out an excellent show.

The Corps performed in Boston, MA in the

Saint Patrick's day Parade and will conduct performances in San Antonio, TX and Detroit, MI.

Very Respectfully,
Gregory S. Balvanz
Commander

From the Sergeant Major's desk...

Dear Battalion Soldiers and Families:

The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is one of the largest families on post; with almost 70 members, performing together year-round, we form a tight knit group. The Corps is honored to have such talented soldiers that not only give pride to the Battalion, but to our Nation as a whole.

Promotions in the Fife and Drum Corps are earned on a strict merit basis and require the soldier to be a proficient musician and a solid leader. This past quarter I'm proud to announce Staff Sergeant Crystal Safarian's elevation to Sergeant First Class and Specialist Barbi Risken's to Staff Sergeant. Both demonstrated superb dedication that warranted their advancements.

Adding to our growing family are three new babies. We have Mya Adeline Dukes born on 09 January 2009 to MSG Josh Dukes and SSG Judy Dukes; Alexander Raymond Safarian born on 12 October 2008 to Mikhail and SFC Crystal Safarian; and Jayson Adan Jones born on 23 December 2008 to SSG Richard Jones and SGT Janie Jones. They're welcome additions and we look forward to watching them grow with the Corps.

Starting at the end of February, the Fife and Drum Corps held public auditions for instrumentalist positions in fife, drum and bugle. We attracted all forms of musicians from all across the United States and put them through a two-day audition process to ensure the best quality fit.

The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is an organization that allows its members to serve their country in such a unique way and these select soldiers approach their job with the utmost professionalism and proficiency. Very Respectfully,
Gregory J. Rock
Corps Sergeant Major

Marriages:

SSG Barbi Risken to Dr. Matthew Dunlap- November 29, 2008

SPC Kristi Sealy to CPL Nickolas Miller- December 21, 2008

Birthdays:

SSG James Hague- December 10

SSG Chad Parsons- January 9

MSG Russell Smith- January 21

SFC James Richard- January 25

MSG Robert Simpson- January 27

Awards presented on 10 Oct 08:

Army Commendation Medal

SSG Matthew C. Bell

SFC John M. Reilly

SSG Richard H. Jones

Army Achievement Medal

SSG John I. Brandt

SSG Joshua P. Salazar

SSG Richard H. Jones (3rd OLC)

SSG Rebecca A. Davidson

SFC John M. Reilly (1st OLC)

SSG Jay S. Martin (1st OLC)

SSG Heather L. Tribble (1st OLC)

SSG Philip Savard (2nd OLC)

SFC Crystal M. Safarian (2nd OLC)

Good Conduct Medal

SSG Randy R. Waterman

SSG Mark J. Metrinko

SSG Matthew C. Bell (2nd award)

SSG Scott J. Martin (2nd award)

SSG Philip R. Savard (2nd award)

SSG Brian L. Barnhart (3rd award)

SSG John B. Greear (5th award)

SFC Richard N. Rolls (8th award)

www.army.mil/fifeanddrum



Matthew Dunlap and SSG DeWitt pin SPC(P) Risken.



Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performs on the NBC Today Show outside NBC Studios, D.C. 2009.

Upcoming Events

April

4TH CHERRY BLOSSOM PARADE
10TH CURTAILED OPERATIONS
12TH EASTER SUNRISE
SERVICE, ARLINGTON
NATIONAL CEMETERY
13TH PRE-DEPLOYMENT
WORKSHOP

May

1ST CURTAILED OPERATIONS
6TH TWILIGHT TATTOO
8TH OLD GUARD BALL, HYATT
REGENCY, CRYSTAL CITY
13TH TWILIGHT TATTOO
20TH TWILIGHT TATTOO
27TH TWILIGHT TATTOO

June

8TH CURTAILED OPERATIONS
3RD TWILIGHT TATTOO
10TH TWILIGHT TATTOO
13TH ARMY BIRTHDAY BALL
14TH ARMY BIRTHDAY
18TH TWILIGHT TATTOO
19TH -21ST FAMILY RETREAT
20TH TWILIGHT TATTOO (FT.
HENRY, NY)
24TH TWILIGHT TATTOO

July

3RD-6TH CURTAILED
OPERATIONS
1ST TWILIGHT TATTOO
16TH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
DINNER



The Last Word...

Soldiers, religious or not, are influenced by the presence of the chaplain. For this reason my "mission statement" and approach to ministry is based the ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi's words to "preach the gospel at all times, use words when necessary."

Family and friends of the "Warrior" battalion, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa in 2000. I have been a chaplain since 2000 and have served on active duty with the Army since April of 2003. I originally entered the Army in 1987 and later served in the US Air Force as a Security Police Law Enforcement Specialist from 1990-1994. I spent the first nine years of my military career enlisted. My active duty chaplain assignments have included 3-4 CAV & 6-17 CAV, 25 ID, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and 425th BSTB, 4-25 BCT (ABN), Ft. Richardson, Alaska. I have been deployed twice since 2003, once to Afghanistan (OEF, Apr 04-May 05) and Iraq (OIF, Oct 06- Dec 07).

Soldiers, religious or not, are influenced by the presence of the chaplain. For this reason my "mission statement" and approach to ministry is based on St. Francis of Assisi's words to "preach

the gospel at all times, use words when necessary." As your chaplain I will strive to serve you and your families to the best of my abilities. Each day I pray the following prayer from Father Mychael Judge, a Franciscan priest killed in the 9-11 attacks on the World Trade Center and whose body was carried from the rubble by NYC fireman. "Lord, today, send me where you would send me, let me say what you would have me say, let me meet who you would have me meet, and most of all Lord, keep me out of your way." Never hesitate to call me and ask for assistance with your problem. I promise if I don't know the answer I will get it for you.

Again, I look forward to the privilege of getting to know each you in the coming months as we work to make our corner of the Army a better place. I wish you peace and goodness (*pax et bonum*) each and everyday.

Chaplain (Captain) Andrew Lawrence

4TH BATTALION, 3RD U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT (THE OLD GUARD)



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